

REMARKS

By virtue of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-154 are cancelled and new claims 155-179 are added. New claim 155 is an independent claim, and the remaining claims depend from claim 155. All of the new claims relate to antigen-binding fragments, such as monoclonal antibodies, that bind BDCA-2 protein. BDCA-2 is a novel dendritic cell-specific surface antigen that mediates antigen capture and suppression of interferon production by dendritic cells, among other activities.

Submission of the new claims is made to expedite prosecution. Cancellation of claims 1-154 is not to be interpreted as either a disclaimer or a dedication of any of the subject matter embraced by those claims, which subject matter applicants intend to pursue in related applications.

The amendment to the specification and claims add no new matter. Support for each of the new claims is replete in the specification, including, but not limited to, the paragraphs specified below. (Reference below to the specification refers to the substitute specification filed September 20, 2002.) Paragraphs identified as supporting a claim are intended to be exemplary, and no indication that support is limited to the specified paragraph(s) is intended. Support for the new claims is also found in the originally filed claims.

Specification

The amendment to ¶ 307 (Table 3, “exon 4”) corrects a typographical error. Support for the change from “78-127” to “79-127” is found in the corresponding mRNA base count in column 2 of Table 3, and the number of residues in the last column of Table 3.

Claims

The table below identifies exemplary paragraphs that support the claims:

Claim	Exemplary Support in Specification (by Paragraph Number)
155	0100, 0102, 0112, 0307 ¹
156	0147-0154, 0163
157	0126, 0147-0154, 0163
158	0112, 0136, 0151, 0154
159	0129 (ln 8-9)
160	0030, 0102
161	0118, 0119-0122
162	0118, 0119, 0170
163	0170
164	0061, 0063, 0068, etc.
165	0061, 0063, 0068, etc.
166	0075, 0103 (Fig. 16), 0285-0286
167	0061, 0063, 0068, etc.
168	0075, 0103 (Fig. 16), 0285-0286
169	0211, 0213
170	0111, 0114

¹ For the convenience of the Examiner, the amino acid residues corresponding to the BDCA-2 splice variants are noted below:

SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2
exons 1-6	residues 1-213
exons 1 and 3-6	residues 1-10 and 42-213
exons 1-2 and 4-6	residues 1-41 and 79-213
exons 1-3 and 5-6	residues 1-78 and 128-213

171	0111, 0252, 0253
172	0070
173	0168, 0169, 0190, 0207, 0208
174	0110
175	0074, 0240, 0245, 0280 et seq. (example 12), 0284 et seq. (example 13), 0299 et seq. (example 17)
176	0074, 0240, 0245, 0280 et seq. (example 12), 0284 et seq. (example 13), 0299 et seq. (example 17)
177	0240, 0280-0283
178	0240
179	0207-0210

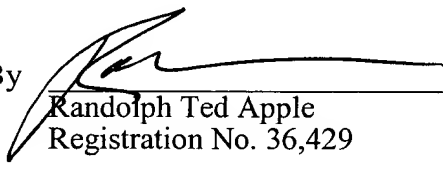
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “**Version with markings to show changes made**”.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 212302001100.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

[0307] Figure 22 shows an alignment of the mRNA sequences of BDCA-2 and mouse Dectin-2 with the positions of the deduced introns being indicated. Table 3 shows the parameters of the exons.

Table 3

Exon	mRNA	amino acid residues encoded	Number of amino acid residues encoded
0	0-361		0
1	362-522	1-10	10
2	523-615	11-41	31
3	616-726	42-78	37
4	727-872	<u>79-127</u> 78-127	49
5	873-988	128-166	39
6	989-1283	167-213	47

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-154.

Please add claims 155-179.